

[8th February 1924]

Country liquor manufactured by Messrs. Parry & Co.

380 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Education be pleased to state—

(1) what are the products and materials from which country liquor is manufactured by Messrs. Parry & Co.;

(2) whether it is a fact that it gives a horrible stench and bad taste specially when diluted with water before it is distributed for sale, and is ordinarily mixed with sweet aerated waters to disguise the stench;

(3) in what kind of vessels is the liquor distilled and what precautions are taken against metallic poisoning; and

(4) whether it is not possible to manufacture liquor without the stench it gives out?

A.—(1) Bases used are molasses from Java and treacle, a by-product obtained in the manufacture of sugar.

(2) No.

(3) Liquor is manufactured in patent European stills such as Ilges and Coffey's stills and is free from metallic poisoning. The precautions taken are periodical tests in the Board's Laboratory apart from tests carried out by the Firm's European Chemist on the spot. The liquor is also tested in the Board's Laboratory from time to time.

(4) No stench is given out.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Will the hon. the Minister say why molasses should be ordered from Java and other places? Is it not possible to get molasses in India, or even in this Presidency? I for one know there is lot of molasses to be obtained in this Presidency."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Messrs. Parry & Co. are the best judges in the matter, and they are businessmen. The molasses are indented for by them and not by the Government."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Why should not the Government try to obtain molasses themselves?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is purely a business concern of Messrs. Parry & Co."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"What I want is that the Government should obtain the molasses and manufacture liquor instead of leaving it to one single Company, Messrs. Parry & Co., for the whole Presidency."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Does the hon. Member suggest that Government should manufacture arrack and sell it themselves?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I do suggest that. If you want liquor at all, let the Government manufacture it and give good liquor."

Public Works.*List of Government buildings rented in Madras.*

381 Q.—The RAJA OF RAMNAD: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works be pleased to furnish a list of Government buildings rented